

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03
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AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EEC

SUBJECT: CIEC - EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL BRIEFLY DISCUSS
CIEC AND COMMON FUND PROCEDURES

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 1103, (B) EC BRUSSELS 919

1. EC PERMDEL AND COMMISSION OFFICIAL TELL US THAT THE
FEBRUARY 8 FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL ONLY HAD A CURSORY
DISCUSSION OF CIEC ISSUES. THERE WAS NO MAJOR DEBATE REGARDING
TIMING OF PROPOSED CIEC MINISTERIAL MEETING. THE COUNCIL
PRESIDENCY SUMMED UP AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE: THE COMMUNITY SHOULD
KEEP ITS OPTIONS OPEN AND NOT TAKE A DECISION TO ALTER ITS
PREVIOUS POSITION THAT THE BEST TIMING FOR CIEC MINISTERIAL
MEETING IS LATE APRIL OR EARLY MAY. UNQUOTE.

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FRG PERMDEL OFFICIALS TELL US, AS INDICATED IN BONN
2377, THAT FRG IS NOW INCLINED TO SUPPORT FRENCH
PROPOSAL TO HOLD CIEC MINISTERIAL AFTER THE SUMMIT
(SEE REF A). THESE OFFICIALS ADD, HOWEVER, THAT THE
FRG WANTS TO HEAR US VIEWS BEFORE TAKING A FIRM
POSITION REGARDING CIEC TIMING. UK PERMDEL OFFICIALS
BELIEVE THAT EC COULD BE PERSUADED TO HAVE CIEC

MINISTERIAL BEFORE THE WESTERN SUMMIT IF THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER G-8 MEMBERS FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT IT.

2. THE COUNCIL GAVE PRIORITY TO PREPARATION FOR THE MARCH COMMON FUND NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA. THE DUTCH AND FRG ASKED THE COUNCIL TO DEVOTE MOST OF ITS MARCH 8 MEETING TO ATTEMPTING TO REACH A JOINT POSITION ON THE COMMON FUND AND TO DISCUSSING SUBSTANTIVE CIEC POINTS. EC OFFICIALS SAY THAT THE DUTCH, SUPPORTED BY BELGIUM, EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO REACH A CONSENSUS ON THE FUND. IF THE COUNCIL FAILED TO DO SO, THE DUTCH THREATENED TO TAKE AN INDEPENDENT POSITION.

3. THE COUNCIL AGREED TO AN INTENSIVE SCHEDULE OF COMMON FUND PREPARATORY MEETINGS: 1) A COUNCIL WORKING GROUP WOULD MEET ON FEBRUARY 9 AND 14-15; 2) THE SPECIAL CIEC HIGH LEVEL GROUP - "BRAINSTORMING SESSION" - WOULD MEET ON FEBRUARY 22; AND 3) THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (COREPER) WOULD DISCUSS THE COMMON FUND ON FEBRUARY 17 AND 24 AND MARCH 3. AS INDICATED IN RREF B, FOUR SPECIAL COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS WILL MEET PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 22 TO PREPARE POSITIONS FOR EACH OF THE CIEC COMMISSIONS AND THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP WILL ALSO DISCUSS CIEC ISSUES. HINTON

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